

Weekly Activities Report – April 21-25

Upper Animas Mining District
Silverton, Colorado

EPA met with the San Juan County Commissioners in Silverton, Colorado on Wednesday evening, April 23rd to answer their questions concerning designating the Upper Animas Mining District as a national priority. Martin Hestmark, Steve Wharton, Paula Schmittiel, Dan Wall, Steve Way and Cynthia Peterson traveled to Silverton to meet with the commissioners. Representatives from both BLM and from CDPHE also attended the meeting along with members of the Animas River Stakeholder Group (ARSG), members of the community and reporters from both the Durango Herald and the Silverton Standard.

The Commissioners asked a series of questions that they had previously provided to EPA to maintain organization of the discussion. Several questions that had not previously been sent to EPA related to a “game plan” proposed by Sunny Side Gold (SSG) to ARSG and the public for the cleanup of the Animas River. SSG’s game plan focused on the continuation of the work through the stakeholder’s group. After an intense 90 minutes, the meeting was adjourned.

While the meeting with the County will not immediately change their minds on EPA and the designation of the site as a national priority, a discussion has started with the community and the interest from parties outside of Silverton appears to be continuing to grow. EPA conveyed to the Commissioners the distinction as to why the current process would not likely result in an adequate level of funding to address the contamination. EPA did communicate that its intent to return this summer when results of the USGS modeling would provide another opportunity to continue the discussion.

Links to articles and an editorial in the Durango Herald that appeared on both the Wednesday and Thursday are provided below. Another article that appeared in the Silverton Standard is available as an adobe file which can be sent in an email if requested.

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[http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140422/NEWS01/140429856/-1/News01/Silverton-flirting-with-Superfund?-](http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140422/NEWS01/140429856/-1/News01/Silverton-flirting-with-Superfund?)

[County commission meeting in Silverton](http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140423/NEWS01/140429803/Superfund-label-stokes-Silverton%E2%80%99s-curiosity)

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